REMARKS

This is in response to the office action dated August 23, 2005. In that office action, claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected based on Graham (US 6,424,125) in view of Mura (US 4,216,756).

Figure 1 of the application describes the Graham prior art. It is a capacitor 10 used to attenuate high frequency components from a power line, for instance, in a home. A circuit connected to the capacitor allows for the discharge of the capacitor when it is unplugged. Without the circuit accompanying the capacitor, when unplugging the capacitor a high voltage may appear across the plug causing a shock.

The improvement of the present invention provides, in addition to the discharge of the capacitor, surge protection. The line voltage may rise, causing the maximum specified voltage for the capacitor to be exceeded. The capacitor 10 is typically a relatively large capacitor, and for cost considerations, a capacitor is selected which is not able to withstand much more than the peak AC voltage.

The claims for the most part were rejected on Graham in view of Mura.

Mura discloses a magneto in which a capacitor 13 is discharged through the coil 16 to provide a spark at the gap 24. The device 18 is triggered when the spark is needed, allowing the capacitor to discharge and provide the spark. The capacitor 13 is charged through a full wave rectifier comprising the diodes 47 from an AC source 52. A voltage regulator 41 having a switching means 42 and a varistor 50 are used as the regulator 41.

In operation of Mura, assume that the triggering device 20 fails to cause periodic discharging of the capacitor 12. In this event, the regulator 41 prevents additional charging of the capacitor 12, since the varistor 50 will cause the device 42 to conduct and prevent the further charging.

Unlike the present invention, the three terminal device 42 and varistor 50 of Mura are not used for surge protection. In fact, they are isolated from whatever surge may occur when the capacitor 12 is discharged. Specifically:

> In the preferred construction shown in FIG. 1, the voltage regulator means 41 is located and protected from discharge surge currents which result during discharge of the charge capacitor 12. More particularly, since the first and second terminals 44 and 46 of the switching means 42 are respectively connected to the full-wave bridge input terminals 36 and 37, no potential difference or voltage can be fed back through the input terminals 36 and 37 to the first and second terminals 44 and 36. (Col. 5, lines 3-12).

Unlike the present invention, the device 42 of Mura is not used to protect against over voltages at the input source 26, but rather to prevent over voltage on the capacitor due to the load being disrupted. There is no discharge through device 42 in Mura of the capacitor or any voltage on it, because the capacitor is isolated from device 42. This is in stark contrast to the present invention where, for instance, device 36 of Figure 3 actually is connected to receive the discharge from the capacitor 31.

Applicant submits that to one of ordinary skill in the art, there would be no reason to include the circuit of Mura in Figure 1 (Graham) of the present application. Mura is for regulating not for surge protection. There is no current path from the

capacitor to the device 42 in Mura. The regulation voltage provided by regulator 41 through device 42 has nothing to do with surge protection from an input surge.

For these reasons, applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are not obvious in view of Graham in view of Mura.

Applicant submits the present application is in condition for allowance and an early allowance would be appreciated.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Edwin H. Taylor at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,
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